

HOUSE RESOLUTION 151

By Gotto

A RESOLUTION to recognize the Honorable George C. Paine II on the occasion of his retirement as Chief Judge of the United States Bankruptcy Court for the Middle District of Tennessee.

WHEREAS, it is appropriate that the members of this legislative body should honor those jurists who have evidenced devotion to the law and our judicial system throughout their years on the bench; and

WHEREAS, Judge George C. Paine II is one such noteworthy jurist who has served with distinction as Chief Judge of the United States Bankruptcy Court for the Middle District of Tennessee since 1984; and

WHEREAS, after obtaining his undergraduate degree from the University of the South at Sewanee, Judge Paine decided to pursue a legal career and earned his Juris Doctor degree from the University of Mississippi School of Law; and

WHEREAS, willing to sacrifice his personal safety and concerns to ensure our individual and collective freedom, Judge Paine performed above and beyond the call of duty as an infantry platoon leader with the United States Army in Vietnam, where he was wounded and later decorated for his valiant service; and

WHEREAS, Judge Paine distinguished himself as a public-spirited citizen of the highest order through his service as a designated judge across the country, including in the Eastern District of Michigan, the District of Kansas, the District of Maryland, and the Eastern District of Tennessee; and

WHEREAS, appointed to the United States Bankruptcy Court for the Middle District of Tennessee in 1981, Judge George Paine was elevated to the esteemed position of Chief Judge in 1984, having proven himself to a thoughtful and dedicated jurist; and

WHEREAS, a prominent member of the bench, Judge Paine is a Fellow of both the American College of Bankruptcy and the International Insolvency Institute and has lent his singular skills and leadership abilities to countless legal societies and committees, including service as President of the National Conference of Bankruptcy Judges, Vice President of the American Bankruptcy Institute, faculty member for the Federal Judicial Center, member of the Advisory Board of the *BNA's Bankruptcy Law Reporter* and the *Norton Bankruptcy Law Advisor*, and tenures on the State-Federal Committee of the Judicial Conference of the United States and the International Judicial Relations Committee of the Conference; and

WHEREAS, this brilliant jurist has also shared his sage insights and professional expertise with this distinguished Body through his testimony at several committee hearings; and

WHEREAS, active in foreign issues, he has served as the President of the Nashville Committee on Foreign Relations since 1979, is a member of the Board and former President of the American Committees on Foreign Relations in Washington, and holds membership on the Council on Foreign Relations, Inc. in New York; and

WHEREAS, Judge Paine has participated in several international trips with the Council on Foreign Relations, the American Council on Foreign Relations, and the Nashville Committee on Foreign Relations, including visits to Russia, Uzbekistan, the People's Republic of China, Hong Kong, Panama, and Taiwan; and

WHEREAS, often sought out for his legal expertise and judicial insight, Judge Paine has participated in bankruptcy education and training seminars with the Russian Arbitrations Courts, as well as USAID-sponsored programs in Central and Eastern Europe on Bankruptcy and Restructuring, which included presentations on commercial and insolvency laws to judges, trustees, and bankers in Bulgaria, Bitola, Macedonia, Romania, and Slovenia; and

WHEREAS, he rendered sterling service as a team member of a USAID Diagnostic Assessment of Commercial and Legal Reform for the Republic of Bulgaria and spent several months in Croatia, where he interacted with the Zagreb Commercial Court and the High Commercial Court, along with American and Croatian business people, the American Chamber, law professors, lawyers, non-commercial judges, U.S. State Department officials, and Croatian government officials; and

WHEREAS, strengthening our international relations, George Paine organized and hosted a delegation of Russian Arbitration Judges to this country and later welcomed four groups of Croatian Commercial Judges into his home, which cooperation led to the creation of a formal sister court relationship between the Zagreb Commercial Court and his court in 2005; and

WHEREAS, Judge Paine is also a dedicated civic leader, who has graciously devoted his time and tremendous talents to numerous noteworthy organizations and influential boards, including serving as the President of the Nashville Rotary Club and a member of the North Carolina Society of the Cincinnati; and

WHEREAS, a man of deep faith, George Paine is a devout and active member of his church, where he has served his Lord for many years; and

WHEREAS, his numerous accomplishments aside, Judge Paine is most appreciative of the love and support he has shared with his wife, Ophelia, and their two sons, Carter and Thompson; and

WHEREAS, Judge George Paine exemplifies the allegiance to equality and justice under the law that is characteristic of a true Tennessean; and

WHEREAS, throughout his estimable career, he has demonstrated the utmost professionalism, ability, and integrity, winning the unbridled respect and admiration of his fellow members of the bench and bar, the parties appearing before his court, and the community at large; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE HUNDRED SEVENTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, that we extend to Judge George C. Paine II our heartfelt wishes for a happy and fulfilling retirement from his voluminous duties as the Chief Judge of the United States Bankruptcy Court for the Middle District of Tennessee, applaud his years of dedicated public service and wise counsel, and extend our best wishes for his continued success in all future endeavors.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy.